



Intercontinental Terminals Company (ITC) Fire Update
Deer Park, Texas
April 13, 2019 0000 – April 13, 2019 1159

Incident Management Objectives:

Objective 1: Ensure the health and safety of the public and response personnel.

Objective 2: Establish an incident management structure and processes employing the Incident Command System to enable effective overall management of the event with deployment of resources (staff and equipment) in a rapid, focused and well-coordinated manner.

Objective 3: Encourage a collaborative federalism approach, where Federal, State, Tribal, and local governments interact cooperatively and collectively to solve common problems.

Objective 4: Take actions to assess the on-site and off-site impacts during the emergency response phase of this incident. Provide this information to state and local authorities to assist them in their decision to protect the local citizens.

Objective 5: Conduct activities to prevent off-site releases from the ITC Tank Farm.

Objective 6: Respond to, mitigate and recovery off-site releases from the ITC Tank Farm.

Objective 7: Maintain open communication with Regional management

Incident Overview:

On March 17, 2019, an above ground storage tank containing Naphtha, caught fire at the Intercontinental Terminal Company (ITC), LLC facility in Deer Park Texas. The ITC facility consists of 15 80,000-barrel capacity above ground storage tanks containing petroleum products including Naphtha, Xylene, Toluene, Gasoline Blendstock, and Base Oil. Eleven of the 15 80,000-barrel capacity above ground storage tanks on site were involved in the fire, resulting in the release of contaminants into the atmosphere, as well discharging the contents of the tanks to drainage pathways. Firefighting water and foam potentially containing petroleum products were released from an outfall due to accumulation of water from firefighting efforts. Various firefighting organizations assisted in putting out the fire utilizing a variety of firefighting foams.

A partial breach of the tank farm containment wall on the northeast side near Tank 80-7 occurred at approximately 12:00 pm on March 22, 2019, to the ditched area and into Tucker Bayou. Additional boom was placed along the ditch leading to Tucker Bayou and Buffalo Bayou (Houston Ship Channel). The Responsible Party's contractor has rebuilt the containment wall using clay material.

At approximately 3:40 pm on March 22, 2019, three tanks reignited. The fire spread from the containment area through the breached containment wall into the ditch along Tidal Road. Foam was applied to the tanks and the ditch to extinguish the fire.

As a result of the fire, nine of the fifteen oil tanks had been burned and collapsed. One of the tanks had been burned and damaged, but not completely collapsed. Two tanks had become overheated and smoked but were not significantly damaged. Four of the tanks had smoked but did not burn.

During and after the fire and the breach of the secondary containment, several readings of benzene above 1.0 parts per million (ppm) were detected (highest was 16.5 near National Tank Services) by the various entities conducting air monitoring through the afternoon and night. These readings were located along the ship channel.

A vessel decontamination plan was approved on March 27, 2019. The plan established procedures for decontamination of large and small vessels. Also, the plan describes how the decontamination team will utilize resources that include barge boats equipped with a hot water pressure washer, support boats for assessment team members, containment boom and absorbent sweep, rags, absorbent pads, cleaning agents, personal protective equipment (PPE), boat operators, and technicians.

On March 31, 2019, EPA and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) posted the Story Map Resource Interactive tool for the ITC incident. The Story Map provides easy access for ITC fire data.

Executive Overview:

Land Operations:

- On April 13, 2019, ITC conducted operations at the tank farm:
 - Continued degassing process for tanks 80-7, 80-10, 80-13, 80-14, and 80-15 using an Internal Combustion Engine.
 - Sludge removal activities continued in Tank 80-15 and started sludge removal activities in Tank 80-5.
 - Cleaning of tanks 80-9 and 80-12 started and completed the cleaning of tank 80-3 and 80-4.
 - Draining of Tank 80-8 is scheduled for April 14, 2019.
- ITC reported 1.85 ppm benzene reading at Texas Molecular. Texas Molecular evacuated their employees at approximately 11:45 pm for the remainder of the night.

Water Operations:

- On April 13, 2019, all water operations stopped at 10:00 am due to adverse weather conditions. Water operations will resume on April 14, 2019.
- On April 13, 2019, at the request of the Wildlife Section, the eight-foot alligator at Bostco Dock was baited and dispatched by a licensed nuisance hunter accompanied by a game warden. The decision to dispatch the alligator was made due to it being heavily impacted by the materials spilled during this incident.
- ITC returned to Santa Anna Bayou on April 13, 2019, to collect a water sample and a sample of the gel-like material observed on April 12, 2019. The sampling team collected the water sample but did not observe any gel-like material. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department was present at Santa Anna Bayou along with the sampling team and confirmed their observations.

- No surface water samples were collected on April 13, 2019 due to weather conditions. The surface water samples collected previously along Buffalo Bayou and the San Jacinto River and were analyzed for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), volatile organic compounds (VOCs), semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs), chemical oxygen demand (COD), and oil & grease. The results from the sampling event were compared to the TCEQ Surface Water Quality Standards (WQS), or to TCEQ Texas Risk Reduction Program surface water protective concentration levels (PCLs), if a WQS was not available for a chemical. On March 21, 2019, the surface water sample collected at the confluence of Tucker Bayou and Buffalo Bayou (BB-02) exceeded the PCL for oil and grease, and the WQS for naphthalene, benzene and total xylenes. On March 25, 2019, the surface water sample collected on Buffalo Bayou at the Battleship Texas (BB-05) exceeded the PCL for oil and grease. On March 30, 2019, the surface water sample collected at BB-02 exceeded the WQS for 1,2,4-trichlorobenzene. On April 2, 2019, the surface water sample collected at BB-05 exceeded the WQS for 2-methylnaphthalene and phenanthrene. No other exceedances have been observed.
- The USCG Captain of the Port continues the controlled open for the Ship Channel, with traffic during the daytime only. Decontamination vessels are being positioned to help ships that may have residue on the hulls.
- As of Friday, April 13, 2019:
 - 160,840 feet of boom deployed
 - 141,026 bbl of product/water recovered from water operations
 - 205,890 bbl of product/water recovered from tank farm

Total Vessels as of April 13, 2019				
Work Boats	Barges	Small Capacity Skimming Vessels	Skimmers	Total Vessels
97	103	23	70	293

Community Air Monitoring:

- Several entities including TCEQ, EPA, and ITC continue to conduct air monitoring around the tank farm, in adjoining industrial areas, and communities downwind from the facility.
- EPA conducted handheld air monitoring on April 13, 2019, from 00:00 to 23:59 at 66 locations in the surrounding communities. No results were reported above the detection limit at all locations for total volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Hydrogen sulfide was detected at three locations and will be investigated further. EPA will continue to conduct additional air monitoring and deploy the Trace Atmospheric Gas Analyzer (TAGA) if VOCs are detected.
- The Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology (ASPECT) aircraft did not fly during this reporting period due to weather.
- EPA conducted air sampling using the TAGA on April 13, 2019. The TAGA analyzed the air samples for benzene, toluene and xylene. The TAGA air sampling results were compared to the TCEQ short-term Air Monitoring Comparison Values (AMCVs) and found no exceedances of the short-term AMCVs for toluene and xylene. The TAGA air sampling results found an exceedance of the short-term AMCV for benzene (0.18 ppm) north of the ITC facility. These results have been shared with unified command and local officials.

Coordination with State Agencies:

On March 17, 2019, in response to a tank fire at the ITC, federal, state and local agencies joined ITC in a Unified Command. Multiple agencies including the United States Coast Guard, the TCEQ, and Harris County Pollution Control Services supported the response effort.

EPA Resources:

Personnel	EPA R6 Dallas	ITC Deer Park	Total
EPA Region 6	11	6	17
EPA Non-Region 6	0	5	5
START	1	12	13
Other Contractors	0	8	8
Total	12	32	44

Additional Information: Air Monitoring and Water Sampling locations.

